

FERTILITY RATE FOR GIRLS 15 YEARS OF AGE

Objective

By 1990, the fertility rate for girls 15 years of age should be reduced to 10 per 1,000.

Explanatory Notes

The fertility rate is calculated as the number of resident live births to girls aged 15 per 1,000 female population 15 years of age. N.C. population by single year of age is not available prior to 1980.

Findings

The North Carolina fertility rate for girls aged 15 is consistently higher than the corresponding U.S. rate throughout the 1980s. Despite projections that the rate would level off, it continued to climb.

Related National Objectives for the Year 2000

- o Reduce pregnancies among girls aged 17 and younger to no more than 50 per 1,000 adolescents.
- o Reduce pregnancies among black girls aged 15 through 19 to no more than 120 per 1,000 adolescents.
- o Reduce pregnancies among Hispanic girls aged 15 through 19 to no more than 105 per 1,000 adolescents.
- o Reduce to no more than 30 percent the proportion of all pregnancies that are unintended.
- o Reduce to no more than 40 percent the proportion of all pregnancies among black women that are unintended.
- o Reduce the proportion of adolescents who have engaged in sexual intercourse to no more than 15 percent by age 15 and no more than 40 percent by age 17.
- o Increase to at least 40 percent the proportion of ever sexually active adolescents aged 17 and younger who have abstained from sexual activity for the previous three months.
- o Increase to at least 90 percent the proportion of sexually active, unmarried people aged 19 and younger who use contraception, especially combined method contraception that both effectively prevents pregnancy and provides barrier protection against disease.
- o Increase the effectiveness with which family planning methods are used, as measured by a decrease to no more than five percent in the proportion of couples experiencing pregnancy despite use of a contraceptive method.
- o Increase to at least 85 percent the proportion of people aged 10 through 18 who have discussed human sexuality, including values surrounding sexuality, with their parents and/or have received information through other parentally endorsed source, such as youth, school, or religious programs.
- o Increase to 90 percent the proportion of pregnancy counselors who offer positive, accurate information about adoption to their unmarried patients with unintended pregnancies.
- o Increase to at least 60 percent the proportion of primary care providers who provide age-appropriate preconception care and counseling.

Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health and Environmental Statistics
United States: National Center for Health Statistics